Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06

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R 291401Z APR 76 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO USIA WASHDC SECSTATE WASHDC 4803

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USIA FOR IMV/PS, ILA, AND IOP

STATE FOR ARA AND S/NM

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SNARCO

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: USIS DRUG FILM

- 1. MISSION IS GETTING LARGE NUMBER OF INQUIRIES FROM GOC OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE COLOMBIANS RE SCREENING OF ASHLEY HAWKEN DRUG FILM, PRODUCTION OF WHICH BEGAN ONE YEAR AGO THIS MONTH. AS AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE PROMISED GOC NARCOTIS OFFCIALS WE WOULD SEEK THEIR APPROVAL PRIOR TO RELEASING FILM FOR PUBLIC SHOWING HERE. WE ARE CONFIDENT THIS APPROVAL WILL BE ENTHUSIASTIC AND IMMEDIATE ONCE THESE OFFICIALS SEE THE FINAL PRODUCT.
- 2. CONTINUED DELAYS IN COMPLETING FILM PRODUCTION AND SCREEN-ING HERE CAN, HOWEVER, CAUSE US PROBLEMS. SOME OF THE GOC OFFICIALS KEY TO THIS PRODUCTION--FOR EXAMPLY, FORMER NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL EXCESEC RESTREPO-- HAVE ALREADY MOVED OUT OF THE DRUG FIELD. OTHER KEY NARCO OFFICIALS--GENERAL MATALLANA OF DAS AND CAPTAIN CAMPO OF THE NATIONAL POLICE--ARE SLATED FOR MID-YEAR TRANSFERS. THEREFORE, UNLESS WE CAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCREEN THE FINISHED PRODUCT BEFORE JUNE 15, WE WILL LIKE-

LY BE OBLIGED TO CONVINCE A NEWLY-APPOINTED, INEXPERIENCED GROUP OF GOC NARCOTICS OFFICIALS THAT THE FILM IS A VALUABLE TOOL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SPREADING DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING. BECAUSE THESE OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE AWARE OF BACKGROUND FILM CONCEPT, BRIEFINGS WILL TAKE TIME AND WILL LIKELY DELAY FILM RELEASE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. THOUGH WE FULLY AWARE THAT USIS IS ENGAGED IN PRIORITY FILM PRODUCTION MARKING BICENTENNIAL, REQUEST AGENCY MAKE EVERY EFFORT GET AT LEAST ON FINISHED PRINT OF DRUG FILM TO US PRIOR JUNE 15. VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: FILMS, DRUG ABUSE

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 29 APR 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cobumhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BOGOTA04222

Document Number: 1976BOGOTA04222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760166-0139

From: BOGOTA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976049/aaaaagvp.tel Line Count: 73

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: coburnhl

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 14 JUL 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: NARCOTICS: USIS DRUG FILM

TAGS: SNAR, CO, US To: USIA STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006